

AITC PRESS RELEASE

“BJP-Backed Thugs Unleashed Violence Because They Had Blanket Protection From The High Court.” Hon’ble National General Secy Abhishek Banerjee Lashes Out At BJP Over Violence In State

“BJP WORKERS ENGAGING IN VIOLENCE AND THREATS SHOULD KNOW THAT PEOPLE WILL RESPOND TO THEIR INTIMIDATION DURING THE NEXT ELECTIONS AGAIN. IN 2024, OUR VOTE SHARE WILL FURTHER GO UP TO 56%”

“I HAVE NOTED NAMES OF THE 20 MISCREANTS & WILL SUBMIT THESE NAMES TO THE CM.
WE WILL ENSURE NO CRIMINAL IS SPARED”

Kolkata, 14.07.2023

- Ever since the results for the panchayat polls were announced, in Nandigram – particularly in Bhekutia and Bayal anchal – BJP has been spreading violence. As many as 14 of our party workers were injured in the violence and are receiving medical assistance in Kolkata’s SSKM Hospital. I have come here today to meet all of them and check on them
- During the polls, our Tamluk AITC Town President Chanchal Khara was also attacked. I met him and spoke to him as well
- The way BJP has resorted to attacking our workers after failing to hold the ground beneath their feet in Nandigram in the political arena is shameful. Trinamool Congress has won seats across Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and multiple Anchals
- This is why BJP has resorted to violence. They haven’t even spared the women and have given them death and rape threats. They haven’t even spared children. These goons attacked a couple in Bhekutia and did not even allow their children to remain in their homes
- One of our panchayat members, who won in Bayal, was threatened after the counting. The goons told her they had made arrangements to get her raped inside her home
- **I have noted the names of 20 such miscreants who were behind all these incidents. I will submit these names to the Chief Minister along with the names of BJP’s Block-level leaders Pabitra Kar, Meghnad Pal, and Ashok Kara, who are involved**
- It is extremely unfortunate that High Court has given blanket protection to these BJP leaders. BJP has been trying to demolish independent judiciary and media – the third and fourth pillars of democracy – ever since they came to power
- It is sad that the High Court has protected these anti-social elements which has caused the miscreants to spread more violence. We haven’t seen this in the judiciary ever since Independence
- Some may object to my words saying this is contempt of court. But if someone wants to take action against me for speaking the truth, they can do so. By helping those who must be jailed and put behind bars, the High Court has tied the hands of the police and the administration. The same bench that gave protection to Suwendu Adhikari has given protection to Pabitra Kar, Meghnad Pal, and Ashok Kara
- This is why today our workers are injured and there is a threat to the safety of women. If there is anyone who is responsible for the same, it is the High Court Judge

- Justice Rajasekhar Mantha has given a judgement that effectively means that if Suwendu Adhikari does something criminal in the future, no action or FIR can be taken against him. The same judge has now passed an order that has tied the hands of the administration and prevents the police from taking action against these thugs
- By speaking on it today, I am bringing the attention of the judges on this matter. If the state administration fails to take action against the miscreants even after the order is vacated, only then can the Opposition call for CM's resignation. The truth is that the state government is not allowed to function through the handiwork of a few judges
- The same Suwendu Adhikari who got protection from the court did not bat an eyelid when his convoy killed innocent people. Why can't the state government take action against him for this? If I sought protection, will I be extended the same courtesy?
- There is no point in using the central agencies to execute political vendetta as the results have shown that people's support lies with Trinamool Congress
- I had claimed that AITC's voteshare would increase from 48%. Today, it has increased to 52%. Meanwhile, BJP's voteshare has decreased from 38% to 22%
- **On the day of polls, incidents of violence took place in around 60-62 booths but it was used to defame the entire state.** Around 700 booths saw repolling. Not a single discrepancy or untoward incident was reported during the repolling
- In the Jangalmahal areas, including districts such as Bankura, Purulia, and Paschim Medinipur, people have remained in queue till midnight, waiting with their tokens eagerly, just to vote. In Jhagram, Trinamool Congress won all gram panchayats but there were no complaints
- **The polls were conducted in more than 60,000 booths. If incidents were reported in around 60-62 booths, it comes to less than 0.1%.** Within two days, the demands for repolling by Opposition were taken into cognisance and repolling was conducted peacefully. We had said that we would remove the culture of violence from the panchayat elections and had also ensured 100% nominations
- The deaths that took place were extremely unfortunate and we would have been happier if people didn't lose their lives. But one must take a look at who is suffering the losses. We have lost almost 30 of our workers which amounts to about 70% of the deceased
- The areas which saw peaceful polling were won by Trinamool Congress. Through Trinamoole Nabo Jowar, we went to people and asked them to select their candidates. **This is why out of 3,300 we have won over 2,700 gram panchayats; out of 341 Panchayat Samitis, we won 314; and won all 20 Zilla Parishads**
- In Purba Medinipur, which was falsely touted as BJP's bastion, was lost by them. Trinamool won 56 Zilla Parishad seats and BJP won only 14 seats. This is why BJP has resorted to violence. Our leaders have also visited many workers in Nandigram
- In a democracy, people have the last word. The **BJP workers engaging in violence and threats should know that people will respond to their intimidation during the next elections again. In 2024, our voteshare will further go up to 56%**
- Opposition is not allowing CM to work. After BJP lost in Bengal during the 2021 Assembly elections, all central funds were blocked. Four ministers were arrested by CBI within 10 days. The-then Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay's extension was cancelled and he was called back to Delhi
- Those who claim to be the tallest BJP leaders in the state failed to win in their own districts and booths. Suwendu Adhikari lost his Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and 7 Anchals; Dilip Ghosh lost his own booth; Sukanta Majumdar lost his Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti,

Gram Panchayat; John Barla too lost his booth; Shantanu Thakur too lost his booth. He had tried to obstruct me and I said even then, that people will respond to them

- Why hasn't the Governor checked on the 14 AITC workers who were attacked and receiving treatment at SSKM Hospital? Is it because they are Trinamool workers?
- These TMC workers have given the names of the perpetrators in a written complaint. Will the Governor ask the police to take action against the miscreants?
- **Those saying that the Mamata Banerjee administration is not taking action should ensure that these protection orders are vacated. And then, observe, how the state government ensures law and order prevail in the state**
- I will send a message to political workers of Trinamool Congress and all other parties that we will not tolerate or support any kind of violence. It is BJP which repeatedly engages in violence here to defame the state
- **If BJP's voteshare goes down from 38% to 22%, does that signal an increase or a decrease? Amit Shah is the country's Home Minister. If he thinks 22 is more than 38, I think that explains why the country is in this position today**
- [Sukanta Majumdar] He can submit reports on the poll violence to the Centre. But we hope his report includes the violence inflicted upon the common people by BJP-backed thugs. We hope his report also mentions who is responsible for the death of the 30 Trinamool workers
- **The only reason why BJP is engaging in such tactics is because they lost the polls and want to remain in the limelight**
- Ravi Shankar Prasad is saying that the situation in Bengal is worse than in the Left era. But how many times did Ravi Shankar Prasad come to Bengal when CPI(M) was in power? He was able to go to whichever village he wanted to. The way some sections of the media continue running propaganda against Mamata Banerjee proves that democracy is thriving in West Bengal because the same would not be possible in Uttar Pradesh
- **BJP is in shambles in Bengal and the organisation is in total dismay here. What is the need to send representatives from outside when they have 18 MPs in Bengal? Why couldn't a fact-finding committee be constituted with MPs from Bengal? They want to establish the fact that Bengal will be ruled from Delhi**
- A person was shot dead on live television but nobody called for Yogi Adityanath's resignation. Nobody has the courage to do so because they know that ED-CBI will be used to harass them. This doesn't happen in Bengal. We don't send notices to media houses despite the media trials. We believe in democracy
- Many news media outlets are running stories that we are welcoming independents despite what I said in TNJ. I want to clear the air on this that I had said that those Trinamool workers who left the party after failing to secure party tickets will not be taken back. Suspended workers will also not be allowed to rejoin AITC. But if Opposition leaders with good credentials want to join the party, they are welcome. There are a few independent candidates who wield substantial influence in their respective Booths or Gram Panchayats and have no affiliation with any political party and contested as independent candidates in the recently concluded Panchayat Elections. There is no wrong in taking them in Party
- **We will ensure the strictest action against these 20 miscreants. I have written down their names. No one will be spared. If High Court provides protection, we will move Supreme Court within 24 hours and bring it to the attention of Chief Justice. People still believe in judiciary**